



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421
E-MAIL: Michael.McLachlan@cga.ct.gov
WEB SITE: www.SenatorMcLachlan.cga.ct.gov

MINORITY WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
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April 5, 2010

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 229, *An Act Concerning Certain Agreements or Stipulations Required to be Approved by the General Assembly*.

This legislation would require a vote by each chamber of the General Assembly on all collective bargaining agreements.

Currently collective bargaining agreements take affect after the General Assembly has not taken any action upon them. Such a practice seems backwards in many ways – agreements like these should only take effect after the General Assembly has reviewed them. With this legislation any agreements would need to be approved with a two-thirds vote of acceptance from the General Assembly.

Collective bargaining agreements between the State and unions often times cost the State a great of money. Currently, their fiscal implications are not taken into consideration. With the adoption of this bill the General Assembly would need to review these agreements and have discussions regarding the effects of these laws as they would apply to the whole financial picture of the state. Through that process there is an option for the problems within the agreements to be discussed, and perhaps rejected. This legislation would greatly reduce the power that unions and their collective bargaining packages hold over the State.

I urge this committee to support this legislation in order to great a level of transparency and discussion regarding collective bargaining agreements.

Thank you.